

1. Claims 1-4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The phrase "having an outer circumferential surface opposite to the feed course" has been amended to indicate that the surface is touching the feed course. See page 9, lines 1-8, where the coil spring 47 urges the movable portion 40c to be swung in a counter-clockwise direction so the processing roller 3 is pushed toward the other circumferential surface of anvil 41 with the film passing between the processing roller 3 and the anvil 41.

The phrase "for processing package material being by rotating the processing roller" has been amended to state "for processing package material being processed by rotating the processing roller" to make the recitation complete. The processing roller 3 is processing the package film by the rotation of the processing roller 3 in contact with the film.

The phrase "a value set through the setting device" in the two instances in lines 18-19 and 22-23 has been amended back from "a value" to "the value" to indicate that it is the same "value" previously identified in claim 1, line 12.

The phrase "at the pitch corresponding to a value set" in lines 22 and 23 has been amended from "a value" to "the value" as

described in the paragraph above. As amended it indicates that it is the same "value" correlative with the pitch stated in claim 1, lines 12-13.

The phrase "a certain positional relationship" in claim 2, lines 5-6, has been deleted and replaced with "the interval" between the registration mark and the processed portion in the feed direction. The term "interval" is was previously identified in claim 2. See page 10, third full paragraph.

The foregoing amendments should remove the informalities noted in the Office Action. The amended claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, and reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

2. Claims 1-4 were rejected under §102(b) over Anderson et al. U.S. Patent 5,447,486. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

The package material processing machine of applicants' amended claim 1 has:

- a setting device for setting a pitch between a plurality of portions to be processed on package material,
- a feed amount detection device for detecting information correlative with a feed amount of package material, and

- a rotation control device for controlling a rotation speed of the processing roller. This is done on the basis of the pitch set through the setting device and the information detected by the feed amount detection device. As a result the processed portions are arranged in a feed direction of package material at the pitch set through the setting device.

The combination of these control elements allows the package material processing machine to modify the pitch of the processed portions by changing the rotation speed of the processing roller. Therefore, it is not necessary to change the diameter of the processing roller, or to exchange the processing roller.

The Anderson et al. '486 reference, on the other hand, discloses in Fig. 1 a package material processing machine comprising a feeding device 12, a processing roller 28, a feed amount detection device, a mark detection device 140, and a control device to adjust the diameter of the processing roller (see col.8, lines 20-30). Anderson et al. '486 fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the above described combination of features of the present invention which uses a processing roller with a fixed diameter.

One of the main features in the amended claim 2 resides in the package material processing machine that further comprises a

mark detection device, wherein an interval between the registration mark and the processed portion is set through the setting device, and the rotation control device controls the rotation speed with reference to a detection result of the mark detection device and the interval set through the setting device for keeping the interval between the registration mark and the processed portion. There is no need in applicants' claimed invention for the complicated apparatus in Anderson et al to change the diameter of the processing roller 28.

The pitch of the processed portions almost determines the locations of the processed portions. However, the interval between the registration mark and the processed portion determines the locations of the processed portions exactly. The above feature allows the package material processing machine to maintain a fixed interval between the registration mark and the processed portion even if a location of the registration mark varies due to certain factors in the production.

On the contrary, Anderson et al. '486 fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the above feature of the present invention and uses a completely different system wherein the diameter of the processing roller is varied.

Claim 13 has been added to further recite the feature wherein the setting device receives the value correlative with the pitch, and issues signals corresponding to the value to the rotation control device. See page 9, lines 15-20.

When the operator changes the value correlative with the pitch, the pitch of the processed portions is changed. The above feature allows the operator easily to modify the pitch of the processed portions.

Anderson et al. '486, on the other hand, completely fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the above feature of the present invention.

For all the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in Anderson et al. '486 which would suggest applicants' presently claimed invention, or would suggest the desirability of modifying the Anderson disclosure effectively to arrive at applicants' presently claimed invention. Accordingly, all claims 1-4, 7 and 13 should now be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully solicited.


Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even

better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

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Date



Roger W. Parkhurst
Registration No. 25,177

RWP:EC/ame

Attorney Docket No.: ISHP:020

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.
1421 Prince Street, Suite 210
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805
Telephone: (703) 739-0220